

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-12

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TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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S E C R E T BELGRADE 0094

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV MILI IC YO CZ
SUBJECT: INDONESIAN-YUGOSLAV MILITARY COOPERATION

REF: A) JAKARTA 16185 B) BELGRADE 7935 C) IR NO. 6904006277

1. YUGOSLAVIA HAS BEEN SELLING LIMITED QUANTITIES OF ARMS TO INDONESIA SINCE 1954 AND, DESPITE WHAT THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR HERE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING PANGGABEAN VISIT (REF B) THE INDONESIAN ATTACHE HERE CLAIMS THAT INDONESIA CONTINUES TO BUY M-47 MOUNTAIN HOWITZERS (TITO GUN) AND M-56 105MM HOWITZERS AS WELL AS AMMUNITION FOR BOTH WEAPONS (REF C). HOWEVER, JUDGING FROM THE HIGH LEVEL MILITARY INTEREST IN PANGGABEAN'S VISIT HERE, THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MUTUAL INTEREST IN FURTHER SALES. (SEE ALSO TD FIRDB-315/13161-77).

2. WE HAVE SEEN NO YUGOSLAV REACTION TO THE VISIT, BUT IF ANY OF THE REPORTS OF SALES AGREEMENTS ARE TRUE, THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD REGARD THIS AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. SUCH SALES WOULD BENEFIT YUGOSLAVIA IN SEVERAL WAYS.

-- IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE YUGOSLAV POSITION IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT BY FURTHER DEMONSTRATING, IN CONCRETE TERMS, THEIR INTEREST IN ANOTHER NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT COUNTRY.

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THIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY TRUE IF THEY OFFER SOFT CREDIT TERMS OR OTHER FINANCIAL INCENTIVES.
--IT WOULD PROVIDE INCREASED PRODUCTION RUNS FOR THE YUGOSLAV ARMS INDUSTRY WITH A PROBABLE REDUCTION IN THE PER-UNIT COST OF THE SYSTEMS INVOLVED. THIS WOULD REDUCE THE COST OF THESE WEAPONS TO THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY AND TO ANY OTHER POTENTIAL BUYERS.

--IT WOULD REPRESENT AN INCREASE IN EXPORTS, HELPING THE YUGOSLAV BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WHICH IS CURRENTLY RUNNING A SERIOUS DEFICIT.

3. ALTHOUGH YUGOSLAVIA IS CRITICAL OF THE HIGH LEVEL OF ARMS TRANSFERS AROUND THE WORLD, THEY VIEW THEIR OWN ARMS SALES AS BEING POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE AS OPPOSED TO THOSE MADE BY "BLOCS". IN THIS CONTEXT YUGOSLAVIA SEES ITSELF AS ACTING MORE AS A LEADER OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT THAN AS A COMMUNIST NATION.
WORTZEL

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NNN

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